

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SIG-01 /058 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:PWLANDE/MW
APPROVED BY NEA - MR. DUBS
-----058913 031114Z /13

R 022047Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY DACCA

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PK, IN, US

SUBJECT: PAKISTANI DEMARCHE ON DEPUTY SECRETARY'S
STATEMENTS IN NEW DELHI
REF: ISLAMABAD 7864

1. PAKISTANI DCM MEHDI CALLED ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
DUBS AUGUST 1 REGARDING DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER'S
PUBLIC COMMENTS IN NEW DELHI ON THE ROLE OF INDIA IN SOUTH
ASIA. MEHDI STATED THAT HE WAS NOT PROTESTING THE CHRISTO-
PHER STATEMENTS BUT HE WAS SEEKING CLARIFICATION. HE
PARTICULARLY DREW ATTENTION TO PRESS REPORTS QUOTING
CHRISTOPHER AS REFERRING TO INDIA AS ASSUMING "THE LEADER-
SHIP OF SOUTH ASIA." HE STATED THAT THE GOP WAS FULLY
COGNIZANT OF POLITICAL REALITIES. HOWEVER, PUBLIC STATE-
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MENTS OF THIS SORT CAUSED PARTICULAR SENSITIVITY IN PAKISTAN
AND THE GOP FEARED THAT IT COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT NORMALIZA-
TION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN.

2. DUBS STATED THAT CHRISTOPHER'S COMMENTS SHOULD BE LOOKED
AT IN THE BROAD CONTEXT OF U.S. POLICY TOWARDS SOUTH ASIA
FOR MANY YEARS. WHEN THE STATEMENTS ARE EXAMINED IN THIS

CONTEXT, THEY CAN BE SEEN TO BE NO DEPARTURE FROM EXISTING POLICY.

-- THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S COMMENTS ARE IN LINE WITH U.S. POLICY STATEMENTS TOWARD SOUTH ASIA GOING BACK TO THE 1973 NIXON STATE OF THE WORLD MESSAGE AND THE 1974 KISSINGER SPEECH IN NEW DELHI.

-- OUR POSITION SINCE THEN HAS BEEN TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE FACTS OF GEOGRAPHY, SIZE, POPULATION AND ECONOMICS WOULD INEVITABLY LEAD TO INDIA'S PLAYING A PREEMINENT ROLE IN THE REGION.

-- WE HAVE ALSO TAKEN THE POSITION THAT STABILITY IS BEST ASSUMED IF THERE IS NO OUTSIDE POWER EXERCISING UNDUE INFLUENCE ON THE SUBCONTINENT.

-- THUS, THE UNITED STATES WARMLY SUPPORTED THE 1972 SIMLA AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN CALLING FOR NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS.

-- WE ARE PLEASED THAT INDIA AND PAKISTAN HAVE MADE SUCH NOTABLE PROGRESS IN RECENT YEARS TOWARD NORMALIZING RELATIONS AND REDUCING BILATERAL TENSIONS. THIS HAS BEEN BROUGHT ABOUT THROUGH THE EXERCISE OF STATESMANSHIP IN BOTH ISLAMABAD AND NEW DELHI. THE UNITED STATES VERY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MUCH HOPES THAT THIS POSITIVE TREND WILL CONTINUE.

-- WE ARE PLEASED BY INDICATIONS THAT THE DESAI GOVERNMENT FULLY SUPPORTS THE POLICY OF REGIONAL NORMALIZATION OF ITS PREDECESSOR. WITH REGARD TO PAKISTAN, IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT THE DESAI GOVERNMENT IS TAKING A CAREFUL AND RESTRAINED STANCE AND AVOIDING ANY OFFICIAL ACTION OR STATEMENT WHICH MIGHT BE INTERPRETED AS INTERFERING IN THE DIFFICULT INTERNAL SITUATION IN PAKISTAN.

-- WE ARE NOT ENCOURAGING INDIA TO FOLLOW A POLICY OF DOMINATION IN SOUTH ASIA, BUT RATHER ONE OF RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP.

3. MEHDI EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THIS EXPLANATION. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE USG KEEP IN MIND THAT THE SIMLA PROCESS WAS A DIFFICULT ONE FOR PAKISTAN AND THERE WERE STILL AREAS OF BILATERAL CONFLICT. THE GOP WAS NATURALLY WORRIED ABOUT PHRASES SUCH AS "PREDOMINANT" IN LIGHT OF THE LONG-STANDING POLICY OF PARTIES SUCH AS THE JAN SANGH WHICH HAD FAVORED ABSORPTION OF PAKISTAN. IN CLOSING, HE ASKED FOR THE VERBATIM TEXT OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S REMARKS. DUBS

AGREED TO PROVIDE THIS TEXT.

4. IF THE SUBJECT OF CHRISTOPHER'S REMARKS IS RAISED IN THE FUTURE IN COUNTRIES NEIGHBORING INDIA, EMBOFFS, IN ADDITION TO DRAWING ON THE ABOVE, SHOULD POINT OUT THAT CHRISTOPHER'S REMARKS WERE MADE AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF A VERY POSITIVE INDIAN PRESENTATION ON THEIR INTENTION AND CONCRETE ACTIONS TO PURSUE A GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY IN SOUTH ASIA.

5. RE REFTTEL, YOU MAY MAKE SUGGESTED APPROACH DRAWING ON POINTS OUTLINED ABOVE.

CHRISTOPHER
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HEGEMONY, DEMARCHE, PRESS CONFERENCES
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Sent Date: 02-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE181179
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PWLANDE/MW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770277-1263
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197708105/aaaadled.tel
Line Count: 136
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d0aa144f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ISLAMABAD 7864
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1414805
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PAKISTANI DEMARCHE ON DEPUTY SECRETARY'S STATEMENTS IN NEW DELHI
TAGS: PBOR, PK, IN, US, XD, (CHRISTOPHER, WARREN)
To: ISLAMABAD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d0aa144f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009